



PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 2081CON2CIPCON(203-2400CON2CIPCON)  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Buysse et al.

Examiner: Roy Gibson

Serial No.: 10/736,180

Group: Art Unit 3739

Filed: December 15, 2003

Dated: March 19, 2004

For: BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT  
FOR SEALING VESSELS

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that copies of the references listed on pages 1-9 are not required since this application was filed after June 30, 2003 pursuant to 51 C.F.R. §1.98. Copies of foreign references and publications listed on pages 10-14 of form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

Applicant would also like to bring commonly-owned U.S. Application Serial No. 10/474,227 filed October 3, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/299,650 filed November 19, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/246,087 filed September 17, 2002; U. S. Application Serial No. 10/472,295 filed September 18, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/474,169 filed October 3, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/116,944 filed April 5, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/369,894 filed February 20, 2003;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 19, 2004.

Dated: March 19, 2004

Edward C. Meagher

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/474,170 filed October 3, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/116,824 filed April 5, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/284,562 filed October 30, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/471,818 filed September 11, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/712,486 filed November 13, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/460,926 filed June 13, 2003 to the Examiner's attention. Copies of these applications are enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

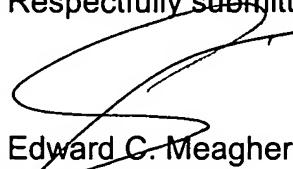
- This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

- Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).
- Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
- Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2140.
- Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140.
- Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 50-2140. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 therefor.

**TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.**

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward C. Meagher  
Reg. No. 41,189  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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ECM/gm



without references

Sheet 1 of 14

Form PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
IN AN APPLICATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)  
2081CON2CIPCON  
(203-2400CON2CIPCON)

Application Number  
10/736,180

Applicant  
Buysse et al.

Filing Date  
December 15, 2003

Group Art Number  
3739

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	RE36795	7/25/00	RYDELL			
	371,664	10/18/1887	BRANNAN ET AL.			
	702,472	6/17/1902	PIGNOLET			
	728,883	5/26/1903	DOWNES			
	1,586,645	6/1/26	BIERMAN			
	2,002,594	5/28/35	WAPPLER ET AL.			
	2,011,169	8/13/35	F.C. WAPPLER			
	2,176,479	10/17/39	WILLIS			
	2,305,156	4/17/41	GRUBEL			
	2,632,661	8/14/48	CRISTOFV			
	2,668,538	2/9/54	BAKER			
	2,796,065	6/18/57	KAPP			
	3,459,187	3/9/67	PALLOTTA			
	3,643,663	2/22/72	SUTTER			
	3,651,811	3/28/72	HILDEBRANDT ET AL.			
	3,862,630	1/28/75	BALAMUTH			
	3,866,610	2/18/75	KLETSCHKA			
	3,911,766	10/14/75	FRIDOLPH ET AL.			
	3,920,021	11/18/75	HILTEBRANDT			
	3,921,641	11/25/75	HULKA			
	3,938,527	2/17/76	RIOUX ET AL.			
	3,952,749	4/27/76	FRIDOLPH ET AL.			
	4,005,714	2/1/77	HILTEBRANDT			
	4,074,718	2/21/78	MORRISON, JR.			
	4,088,134	5/9/78	MAZZARIELLO			

Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Date Considered \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

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(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date December 15, 2003	Group Art Number 3739

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	4,165,746	8/28/79	BURGIN			
	4,300,564	11/17/81	FURIHATA			
	4,370,980	2/1/83	LOTTICK			
	4,492,231	1/8/85	AUTH			
	4,552,143	11/12/85	LOTTICK			
	4,574,804	3/11/86	KURWA			
	4,597,379	7/1/86	KIHN ET AL.			
	4,657,016	4/14/87	GARITO ET AL.			
	4,671,274	6/9/87	SOROCHEŃKO			
	4,685,459	8/11/87	XOCH ET AL.			
	4,763,669	8/16/88	JAEGER			
	4,827,929	5/9/89	HODGE			
	4,887,612	12/19/89	ESSER ET AL.			
	4,938,761	7/3/90	ENSSLIN			
	5,007,908	4/16/91	RYDELL			
	5,026,370	6/25/91	LOTTICK			
	5,099,840	3/31/92	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,116,332	5/26/92	LOTTICK			
	5,151,102	9/29/92	XAMIYAMA ET AL.			
	5,176,695	1/5/93	DULEBOHN			
	5,197,964	3/30/93	PARINS			
	5,215,101	6/1/93	JACOBS ET AL.			
	5,217,457	6/8/93	DELAHUERGA ET AL.			
	5,217,458	6/8/93	PARINS			
	5,244,462	9/14/93	DELAHUERGA ET AL.			
	5,250,047	10/5/93	RYDELL			

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	5,258,006	11/2/93	RYDELL ET AL.			
	5,261,918	11/16/93	PHILLIPS ET AL.			
	5,275,615	1/4/94	ROSE			
	5,277,201	1/11/94	STERN			
	5,282,799	2/1/94	RYDELL			
	5,290,286	3/1/94	PARINS			
	5,304,203	4/19/94	EL-MALLAWANY ET AL.			
	5,308,357	5/3/94	LICHTMAN			
	5,318,589	6/7/94	LICHTMAN			
	5,324,289	6/28/94	EGGERS			
	5,330,471	7/19/94	EGGERS			
	5,334,183	8/2/94	WUCHINICH			
	5,334,215	8/2/94	CHEN			
	5,336,221	8/9/94	ANDERSON			
	5,342,359	8/30/94	RYDELL			
	5,342,381	8/30/94	TIDEMAND			
	5,342,393	8/30/94	STACK			
	5,352,222	10/4/94	RYDELL			
	5,354,271	10/11/94	VODA			
	5,356,408	10/18/94	RYDELL			
	5,366,477	11/22/94	LEMARIE, III ET AL.			
	5,383,897	1/24/95	WHOLEY			
	5,389,098	2/14/95	TSURUTA ET AL.			
	5,389,104	2/14/95	HAHNEN ET AL.			
	5,391,166	2/21/95	EGGERS			

Examiner	Date Considered
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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	5,391,183	2/21/95	JANZEN ET AL.			
	5,403,312	4/4/95	YATES ET AL.			
	5,411,519	5/2/95	TOVEY ET AL.			
	5,411,520	5/2/95	NASH ET AL.			
	5,413,571	5/9/95	KATSAROS ET AL.			
	5,415,657	5/16/95	TAYMOR-LURIA			
	5,423,810	6/13/95	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,425,739	6/20/95	JESSEN			
	5,429,616	7/4/95	SCHAFFER			
	5,431,674	7/11/95	BASILE ET AL.			
	5,437,292	7/4/95	SCHAFFER			
	5,438,302	8/1/95	GOBLE			
	5,441,517	8/15/95	KENSEY ET AL.			
	5,443,463	8/22/95	STERN ET AL.			
	5,443,464	8/22/95	RUSSELL ET AL.			
	5,443,480	8/22/95	JACOBS ET AL			
	5,445,638	8/29/95	RYDELL ET AL.			
	5,445,658	8/29/95	DURRFELD ET AL.			
	5,451,224	9/19/95	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,456,684	10/10/95	SCHMIDT ET AL.			
	5,458,598	10/17/95	FEINBERG ET AL.			
	5,460,629	10/24/95	SHLAIN ET AL.			
	5,462,546	10/31/95	RYDELL			
	5,472,443	12/5/95	CORDIS ET AL.			
	5,478,351	12/26/95	MEADE ET AL.			
Examiner				Date Considered		
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Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	5,484,436	1/6/96	EGGERS ET AL.			
	5,496,317	3/5/96	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,499,997	3/19/96	SHARPE ET AL.			
	5,509,922	4/23/96	ARANYI ET AL.			
	5,514,134	5/7/96	RYDELL ET AL.			
	5,527,313	6/18/96	SCOTT ET AL.			
	5,531,744	7/2/96	NARDELLA ET AL.			
	5,540,684	7/30/96	HASSLER, JR.			
	5,540,685	7/30/96	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,540,715	7/30/96	KATSAROS ET AL.			
	5,558,672	9/24/96	EDWARDS ET AL.			
	5,569,241	10/29/96	EDWARDDS			
	5,571,100	11/5/96	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,569,243	10/29/96	KORTENBACH ET AL.			
	5,573,535	11/12/96	VIKLUND			
	5,585,896	12/17/96	YAMAZAKI ET AL.			
	5,590,570	1/7/97	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	5,603,711	2/18/97	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,603,723	2/18/97	ARANYI ET AL.			
	5,626,578	5/6/97	TIHON			
	5,630,833	5/20/97	KATSAROS ET AL.			
	5,637,110	6/10/97	PENNYBACKER ET AL.			
	5,643,294	7/1/97	TOVEY ET AL.			
	5,647,869	7/15/97	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,647,871	7/15/97	LEVINE ET AL.			
	5,649,959	7/22/97	HANNAM ET AL.			

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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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	5,658,281	8/19/97	HEARD			
	5,667,526	9/16/97	LEVIN			
	5,674,220	10/7/97	FOX ET AL.			
	5,693,051	12/2/97	SCHULZE ET AL.			
	5,695,522	12/9/97	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	5,700,261	12/23/97	BRINKERHOFF			
	5,702,390	12/30/97	AUSTIN ET AL.			
	5,707,369	1/13/98	VAITEKUNAS ET AL.			
	5,709,680	1/20/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,727,428	3/17/98	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	5,743,906	4/28/98	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,755,717	5/26/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,766,166	6/16/98	HOOVEN			
	5,766,170	6/16/98	EGGERS			
	5,769,849	6/23/98	EGGERS			
	5,776,128	7/7/98	EGGERS			
	5,776,130	7/7/98	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	5,779,701	07/14/98	MCBROYER ET AL.			
	5,792,137	8/11/98	CARR ET AL.			
	5,792,177	8/11/98	KASEDA			
	5,797,958	08/25/98	YOON			
	5,800,449	9/1/98	WALES			
	5,810,808	9/22/98	EGGERS			
	5,810,811	09/22/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,814,043	9/29/98	SHAPETON			
	5,827,271	10/27/98	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	5,827,279	10/27/98	HUGHETT ET AL.			
	5,827,281	10/27/98	LEVIN			

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	5,833,690	11/10/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,843,080	12/1/98	FLEENOR ET AL.			
	5,849,022	12/15/98	SAKASHITA ET AL.			
	5,853,412	12/29/98	MAYENBERGER			
	5,891,141	4/6/99	RYDELL			
	5,891,142	4/6/99	EGGERS ET AL.			
	5,893,863	04/13/99	YOON			
	5,893,875	4/13/99	O'CONNOR ET AL.			
	5,902,301	5/11/99	OLIG			
	5,908,420	7/1/99	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,913,874	6/22/99	BERNS ET AL.			
	5,921,984	7/13/99	SUTCU ET AL.			
	5,935,126	8/10/99	RIZA			
	5,951,549	9/14/99	RICHARDSON ET AL.			
	5,954,720	9/21/99	WILSON ET AL.			
	5,976,132	11/2/99	MORRIS			
	5,989,277	11/23/99	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	6,004,335	12/21/99	VAITEKUNAS ET AL.			
	6,024,744	2/15/00	KESE ET AL.			
	6,033,399	3/7/00	GINES			
	6,039,733	3/21/00	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	6,050,996	4/18/00	SCHMALTZ ET AL.			
	6,053,914	4/25/00	EGGERS ET AL.			
	6,053,933	4/25/00	BALAZS ET AL.			
	6,083,223	7/4/00	BAKER			
	6,086,586	7/11/00	HOOVEN			
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	6,090,107	7/18/00	BORGMEIER ET AL.			
	6,090,109	7/18/00	LANDS ET AL.			
	6,096,031	8/1/00	MITCHELL ET AL.			
	6,099,550	8/8/00	YOON			
	6,102,909	8/15/00	CHEN ET AL.			
	6,110,171	8/29/00	RYDELL			
	6,113,596	9/5/00	HOOVEN ET AL.			
	6,113,598	9/5/00	BAKER			
	6,126,658	10/3/00	BAKER			
	6,152,923	11/28/00	RYAN			
	6,174,309	1/16/01	WRUBLEWSKI ET AL.			
	6,179,834	1/30/01	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	6,179,837	1/30/01	HOOVEN			
	6,183,467	2/6/01	SHAPETON ET AL.			
	6,187,003	2/13/01	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	6,190,386	2/20/01	RYDELL			
	6,193,718	2/27/01	KORTENBACH ET AL.			
	6,206,876	3/27/01	LEVINE ET AL.			
	6,206,877	3/27/01	KESE ET AL.			
	6,224,593	5/1/01	RYAN ET AL.			
	6,228,080	5/8/01	GINES			
	6,228,083	5/8/01	LANDS ET AL.			
	6,267,761	7/31/01	RYAN			
	6,273,887	8/14/01	YAMAUCHI ET AL.			
	6,277,117	8/21/01	TETZLAFF ET AL.			
	6,334,860	1/1/02	DORN			

Examiner	Date Considered
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<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class			
	Subclass	Translation					
		Yes	No				
	EP1082944A1	3/14/01	EP				
	EP1080694A1	3/7/01	EP				
	EP1055400A1	11/29/00	EP				
	EP1055399A1	11/29/00	EP				
	EP1053720A1	11/22/00	EP				
	EP1053719A1	11/22/00	EP				
	EP1050278A1	11/8/00	EP				
	EP1034746A3	10/18/00	EP				
	EP1025807A3	10/4/00	EP				
	EP1034748A1	9/13/00	EP				
	EP1034747A1	9/13/00	EP				
	EP0923907A1	6/23/99	EP				
	EP0887046A3	1/13/99	EP				
	EP0754437A3	3/19/97	EP				
	EP0717966A1	6/26/96	EP				
	EP0694290A3	3/13/96	EP				
	EP0650701A1	5/3/95	EP				
	EP0623316A1	11/9/94	EP				
	EP0364216A1	4/18/90	EP				
	EPO518230A1	12/16/92	EP				
	EP0 541 930 B1	5/19/93	EP				
	EP0572131	12/1/93	EP				
	EPO584787A1	3/2/94	EP				
	EPO853922A1	7/22/98	EP				
Examiner			Date Considered				
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION			Applicant Buyssse et al.	
(Use several sheets if necessary)			Filing Date December 15, 2003	Group Art Number 3739

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					Yes	No
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